Mental health care

571. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are giving least consideration for mental health care as the living conditions of the mentally ill people are pathetic and their rights are not respected;

(b) the details of the existing mechanism by Government to monitor the mental health centres in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide a better environment and health care for the mentally ill people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in promoting mental health care. Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat the mentally ill patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government's National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country with additional congruent districts, strengthen the 37 Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges, undertake Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities and research and training. So far 94 districts have been covered under the District Mental Health Programme, funds have been released for upgradation of psychiatric wings of 9 medical colleges and strengthening of one mental health institute. Further, funds have also been released for undertaking research and IEC activities.

The Mental Health Centres in the country are being monitored by the respective State authorities under the Mental Health Act 1987 and Mental Health Rules 1990.

Delay in medical reimbursement

572. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: